

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 13, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 2003

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 215**

**Introduced by Senator Alpert**

February 13, 2003

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An act to amend Sections 2100, 2102, and 2104 of, to amend the heading of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2100) of Division 2.5 of, and to add Section 2101 to, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to minors.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 215, as amended, Alpert. Youth mentoring and youth development.

Existing law establishes the Governor's Mentoring Partnership, which includes specified legislative findings and declarations. These provisions state that it is the goal of the Legislature to give every young person in California access to a quality mentoring relationship. Existing law defines "mentoring" as a specified relationship to help younger at-risk persons as they go through life.

This bill would rename those provisions *as* the Youth Development Act. The bill would revise the statement of findings and declarations. The bill would create the California Youth Policy Council, as specified, to coordinate state policy regarding youth development. The bill would also state that, to the extent possible, all state departments and offices serving children and youth should work closely with the State of California Workforce Investment Board and its State Youth Council, as specified. The bill would delete the limitation that the mentoring relationship is limited to at-risk persons.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2100) of Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

CHAPTER 3. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACT

SEC. 2. Section 2100 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

2100. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that California's children are growing up under conditions of great stress that are resulting in devastating effects on their development and well-being. Structural changes in society, including the breakdown and changes in the traditional family structure and erosion and fragmentation of neighborhood community support networks, have taken a large toll on children and young people's welfare, self-esteem, and academic achievement. To address these challenges, the State of California recognizes quality mentoring as a critical youth development strategy, and a cost-effective method of assisting today's youth to become productive, contributing and engaged members of society, and as an important source of data for improving the quality of all relationships between youth and adults. Research finds that without the caring support, counsel, and role modeling of more experienced individuals or exposure to natural support networks, young people are much more vulnerable to the destructive forces of apathy, abuse, and neglect. As we acknowledge the increasing numbers of children who do not have the benefit of positive relationships, there has been an increasing recognition of the value of mentoring, an activity that connects a caring and more experienced person with a young person who is in need of attention and support. As a means of maximizing public resources, mentoring is both efficient and effective, relying on volunteers as the core service providers to create collateral improvements in the lives of youth. The public investment in the youth development strategy of mentoring has inspired significant private support at the local level. Mentoring principles may also

1 be used to create mentor-rich environments wherever youth and  
2 adults interact on a regular basis, thereby effectively expanding the  
3 world of positive adult contacts for youth in their natural  
4 environments.

5 (b) The complexities of supporting mentoring organizations  
6 and promoting the formation of positive developmental  
7 relationships wherever young people and adults interact requires  
8 the coordinated and sustained support of many private and public  
9 sector organizations to ensure that their services are available to all  
10 young persons who wish to have a mentor. To meet the needs of  
11 each young person, mentor services should be available in  
12 communities throughout California and mentor-rich  
13 environments should be created wherever young people and adults  
14 interact on a regular basis. Mentor programs should be culturally  
15 and linguistically competent and should embrace the rich diversity  
16 of the state. It is the intent of the Legislature and the purpose of this  
17 chapter to foster a partnership between the public and private  
18 sector for the long-term support of quality mentor programs and  
19 mentor-rich environments in which young people can interact on  
20 a regular basis with an array of caring adults.

21 (c) Mentoring California's youth has been carried on by  
22 thousands of dedicated volunteers through local mentor  
23 organizations and with the very significant contributions of the  
24 business community in both time and money. State and local  
25 government agencies also operate and support mentor programs.  
26 However, the need far outweighs the current available resources.  
27 The valuable potential services of many caring adults and older  
28 youth continue to go untapped while the waiting list of children in  
29 need continues to grow, and distant youth-adult relationships  
30 continue to exist where developmental youth-adult relationships  
31 could flourish.

32 (d) The Legislature recognizes that mentoring is an important  
33 part of a broader, more holistic view of helping youth to realize  
34 their full potential, commonly known as youth development. This  
35 view is gaining wider credence in the world of policy and practice.  
36 Adolescence is the time when youth need to acquire the attitudes,  
37 competencies, values and social skills that will carry them forward  
38 to successful adulthood. It is also the time when they need to avoid  
39 choices and behaviors that will limit their future potential. The  
40 broader youth development approach attends to both sets of

1 concerns and creates a larger guiding framework to promote  
2 positive outcomes for all young people. The Legislature also  
3 recognizes that California youth would be better served if the wide  
4 range of programs, activities, and initiatives to improve their ~~well~~  
5 ~~being~~ *well-being* were guided by a coordinating structure to  
6 increase the coherence and effectiveness of their policies and  
7 practices. The State of California should have a comprehensive  
8 system of programs, services and supports for youth that is  
9 integrated, ~~cost-effective~~ *cost-effective*, and sustainable. State  
10 government is uniquely positioned to be able to look across the  
11 wide array of services and supports provided to young people. It  
12 can join forces with communities to both leverage the investments  
13 of these programs, and utilize the talents and interests of young  
14 people themselves, to create a more comprehensive response to  
15 young people's needs.

16 SEC. 3. Section 2101 is added to the Welfare and Institutions  
17 Code, to read:

18 2101. (a) The California Youth Policy Council (CYPC);  
19 shall be formed to serve as a vehicle for ~~policy-makers~~  
20 *policymakers* across state systems, including education, juvenile  
21 justice, youth employment, human services, health, and  
22 community services, to think, plan, and act in new, ~~cross-sector~~  
23 *cross-sector* ways. The CYPC shall work closely with the State  
24 Youth Council, which was established in 2001 by the California  
25 Workforce Investment Board to provide leadership for youth  
26 development by: (1) providing policy guidance for local youth  
27 councils; (2) promoting coordination among the myriad of  
28 community-based youth programs; and, (3) addressing critical  
29 issues affecting California's youth. The CYPC shall bring together  
30 a diverse group of representatives from ~~the~~ youth constituency  
31 groups, youth serving state agencies, the educational system, and  
32 community-based groups and organizations, to the same policy  
33 influencing table in the interest of fostering and promoting the  
34 positive development of all California youth.

35 (b) Collaborative efforts with the State Youth Council, the  
36 State Agency Collaborative on Mentoring and Youth  
37 Development, the California Interagency Prevention Partnership  
38 and other groups with similar and related goals, shall include, but  
39 not be limited to:



1 (1) Developing an overarching multidisciplinary youth policy  
2 framework in order to guide, monitor, and enhance the state's  
3 overall commitment to young people across departmental lines.

4 (2) Developing common standards for evaluating and  
5 assessing whether any given policy promotes positive youth  
6 development, regardless of its origin.

7 (3) Developing an organized cross-sector method for  
8 collecting and reporting indicators of the development of young  
9 people.

10 (4) Conducting ongoing assessments of the array of services,  
11 supports, and opportunities available to young people, including  
12 the ways they are being involved in policymaking at all levels.

13 (5) Establishing clear evaluation criteria and program quality  
14 standards to be applied across departments and agencies, and  
15 developing capacity building strategies to assist departments and  
16 agencies to meet and exceed those standards.

17 (6) Strengthening action alliances among organizations and  
18 individuals committed to youth across sectors and systems.

19 (c) (1) Within the “All Youth—One System” framework  
20 developed by the Youth Council Institute, the CYPC shall  
21 particularly focus on working in partnership with other  
22 collaboratives committed to establishing coordinated responses to  
23 reduce youth failure and increase youth opportunities, and with  
24 educational systems pursuing youth-focused strategies of school  
25 reform.

26 (2) The CYPC shall provide a communication mechanism to  
27 facilitate collaborative efforts locally, regionally, and on a  
28 statewide basis.

29 (3) The CYPC shall meet quarterly and the rotating chair, who  
30 shall serve no more than two consecutive ~~terms~~ *years*, shall be  
31 selected by the membership.

32 (4) Members of the CYPC ~~will~~ *shall* be identified as  
33 commissioners. There shall be \_\_\_\_ commissioners. All  
34 commissioners shall hold leadership and decisionmaking  
35 positions within their organization and shall be connected to a  
36 youth-serving constituency. To ensure representation from the full  
37 range of state level youth-serving agencies, commissioners shall  
38 be drawn from the following state entities and organizations:

1 (A) The CYPC shall include the Attorney General, the  
2 Secretary of Health Human Services, and the Superintendent of  
3 Public Instruction.

4 (B) The CYPC shall also include one representative from each  
5 of the following: the Labor and Workforce Development Agency,  
6 the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the Chancellor  
7 of the California Community Colleges, and the California ~~County~~  
8 ~~Superintendents—Educational—Services—Association~~ Youth  
9 Authority.

10 (C) A maximum of five additional commissioners who are  
11 involved in state-level efforts to reduce youth failure and create  
12 youth opportunities and meet the above referenced leadership  
13 criteria shall be invited to join the council. Members of the CYPC  
14 listed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall invite the members  
15 described in this subparagraph to join the CYPC.

16 (D) The Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the  
17 Assembly shall each appoint two commissioners who shall serve  
18 without compensation.

19 (E) In addition to the above, there shall be not less than \_\_\_\_  
20 commissioners representing the following types of groups: youth  
21 advocacy organizations (~~e.g. California Coalition for Youth,~~  
22 ~~California Youth Connection~~), community-based youth services  
23 organizations and service clubs (~~e.g. YMCA, Friday Night Live,~~  
24 ~~Boys & Girls Club, the Junior League, Rotary International~~),  
25 private foundations and funders (~~e.g. the Foundation Consortium~~),  
26 research and evaluation groups, technical assistance and capacity  
27 building intermediaries (~~e.g. Community Networks for Youth~~  
28 ~~Development~~), and youth media and communications groups (~~e.g.~~  
29 ~~Pacific New Service~~). These members shall be selected by  
30 members of the CYPC listed in subparagraphs (A) to (D),  
31 inclusive.

32 (F) No less than 25 percent of the membership of the council  
33 shall consist of young people, from 14 to 24 years of age, inclusive.  
34 The first cohort of young people shall be nominated by the adult  
35 commissioners. Future cohorts shall be nominated by both youth  
36 and adult council members. The young people shall be selected,  
37 trained, and supported as a group, and shall be deployed to  
38 represent the full range of departments and agencies serving young  
39 people. Young people shall be selected to reflect the diversity of  
40 California's youth, bridging geographic, socioeconomic, and

1 racial lines, as well as engaging young people involved in state  
2 programs and services.

3 (5) *Commissioners of the CYPC shall serve at the pleasure of*  
4 *their appointing authority.*

5 SEC. 4. Section 2102 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is  
6 amended to read:

7 2102. It is the goal of the Legislature in enacting this chapter  
8 to do all of the following:

9 (a) To give every young person in California access to a quality  
10 mentoring relationship. This shall be accomplished by sustaining  
11 or growing the state's resources under the auspices of the  
12 Governor's Mentoring Partnership, to the extent those resources  
13 are available. The Legislature recognizes the efforts of state  
14 departments who have supported local mentor programs under the  
15 Governor's Mentoring Partnership, including the State  
16 Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the California  
17 Conservation Corps, the Department of the Youth Authority, the  
18 Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, the Department  
19 of Community Services and Development, the State Department  
20 of Education, the State Department of Health Services, the  
21 Department of Justice, the Office of the Secretary for Education,  
22 and the Office of Criminal Justice Planning. To the extent possible,  
23 all state departments and offices serving children and youth should  
24 work closely with the State of California Workforce Investment  
25 Board and its State Youth Council in their efforts to achieve "All  
26 Youth—One System." This base of support shall be sustained or  
27 increased predicated upon the performance outcomes in  
28 successfully addressing the four risk factors, and in ensuring that  
29 youth are problem free, and fully prepared for the responsibilities  
30 and challenges of adulthood.

31 (b) To direct consideration towards identifying opportunities  
32 for increased private sector investment in the support and  
33 expansion of mentoring.

34 (c) To encourage state agencies and departments to collaborate  
35 to build youth developmental assets.

36 SEC. 5. Section 2104 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is  
37 amended to read:

38 2104. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions  
39 apply:

1 (a) “All Youth—One System” refers to the entire constellation  
2 of opportunities and supports *that* communities must provide its  
3 young people to enable them to move forward into successful  
4 adulthood.

5 (b) “Mentoring” means a relationship over a period of time in  
6 which caring and concerned adults and older youth provide  
7 support, guidance, and help to younger persons as they go through  
8 life.

9 (c) “Mentor-rich environments” are environments that create  
10 many opportunities for young people to interact with an array of  
11 caring adults and where youth feel respected, connected, and  
12 affirmed.

13 (d) “Youth development” is the acquisition of attitudes,  
14 competencies, values, and social skills that will carry youth  
15 forward into successful adulthood.

